

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Black church leaders gather at Gulfshore

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 27, 2004

VOL. 128

No. 22

Leaders of African-American churches from across Mississippi gathered at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on May 6-8 to praise God and learn more about how Mississippi Baptists can help them reach the state's largest minority population for Jesus.

"I've learned more about ministry this weekend than I have in the last seven years," said one participant. Over 45 people participated in the conference, with several more individuals attending the evening worship services.

The conference, Taking Your Church to the Next Level, was planned in cooperation with the Church Planting Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

According to James C. Price, consultant in the Church Planting Department, "We wanted to accomplish three things in the conference. First, we wanted to provide opportunities for sharing and networking. Second, we wanted to cultivate friendships. Third, we wanted to experience true koinonia fellowship, in the sense of simply being together."

"We met those goals," said Price at the conclusion of the conference. "A number of people are asking, 'When are we going to do this again?'"

Price evaluated the needs of African-American Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi. "There is a real need for Christian education," he said. "We need focused leadership and encouragement."

To accomplish the goals, planners put together an array of breakout conferences:



PRAISE AND WORSHIP - Conferees at the Workshop for African-American Churches at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian on May 6-8 offer unabashed praise to God during one of the evening worship services. The conference was sponsored by the Church Growth Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

- Developing a Sunday School Program.
- Discovering and Developing Church Leaders.
- Developing a Training and Discipleship Program.

The sessions were led by Sharon Smith, Network Partnership Specialist with LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. Other sessions included:

- Focused Living Overview, led by Tom Prather, MBCB Church and Community Impact Department.

- Taking Your Church to the Next Level, led by George O. McCalep of Greenforest Community Church in Decatur, Ga.

McCalep has pastored Greenforest Church for 24 years, with the membership growing from 25 to over 6,000. In addition to his breakout conferences, McCalep led in worship each evening.

"When black men stretch their hands to God in submission and in adoration, God is going to start a revival in all people in this country," said McCalep. "God wants to use the grandsons and great-grandsons of slaves to begin this revival which will be unparalleled."

McCalep spoke of the place of praise and worship in church. "There's power in praise," he said. "When Jehoshaphat stood against the enemy, he didn't put the cavalry in front. He put the praise band in front."

"When we come to church, that's God's party," continued McCalep. "He's the honoree. Now, we come to church some days like we're the honorees. We think someone's supposed to entertain us — the preacher or the choir but God is such a good God, He's let us be a part of His party! We learn to love God by showing Him love."

There are approximately 40 African-American Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi. The conference was supported by gifts to the Miss. Cooperative Program.

For more information, contact the MBCB Church Growth Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3361 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 361. E-mail: edeuschle@mbcb.org.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD
1000 N. GULF SHORE BLVD.
PASS CHRISTIAN, MS 39287
TEL: (601) 292-3361
FAX: (601) 292-3362
WWW.MBCB.ORG

Helping Miss. Baptist Foundation


The Miss. Baptist Foundation (MBF) has selected Daniel C. Hall, pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs, as the new executive director of the foundation. He will begin his duties on June 7.

Hall has served as pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs, for the past three years. He previously held positions at Superior Church in Bogalusa and at Salem Church in Gulfport. He has a master's degree in divinity from the University of Mississippi in Oxford. After graduating from MC, he worked in the funds management division of Deposit Guaranty National Bank in Jackson. He vacated his position as assistant vice president in 1992 to attend New Orleans Seminary (NOBS), where he served as director of development. He received a master of divinity from NOBS in 1994 and a doctor of philosophy degree in 2001. He was licensed and ordained to the Gospel ministry by Broadmoor Church in Gulfport, where he served as deacon.

During his pastorate, Hall served on the board of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He is married to the former Smith, an attorney with the law firm of Watkins and Associates, and they have three children.

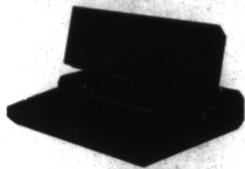
"The MBF trustees are looking for those who express a love for prayer for the search for the executive director position," said Barry Hardy, chairman of the committee and business manager at Broadmoor Church.

The trustees also include Jane Earnest, executive director of the Gulfport area, and...



Daniel C. Hall

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE
Anne Ranson

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Lennie N. Young

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum

BOOKKEEPER
Betty Anne Bailey

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis
Rick Henson, Brandon
Beverly Pylon, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 (601) 968-3800 Fax: (601) 292-3330 E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 128 NUMBER 22
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

The price of freedom, then and now

Few Americans alive today know much about The Great War of 1914-18, or World War I as it came to be known years later. With its warriors long buried and an even more horrific conflict since fought, we have allowed the details of that monumental conflict to recede into the mists of time.

Some of the most profound acts of courage and bravery in U.S. military history occurred during World War I, however, and it is appropriate that we pause on this eve of Memorial Day 2004 to remember just one of those events, among many, in the story of the Lost Battalion.

Major Charles W. Whittlesey was a 34-year old, Harvard-educated attorney from New York City, when the 77th Battalion he was commanding was ordered into the Argonne Forest of northeastern France on October 2, 1918. The 77th advanced quickly and at great cost of casualties on heavily fortified German positions in the forest, and was ordered to hold its position.

Fighting units on both flanks of the 77th bogged down in the face of stiff resistance, however, and were eventually forced to retreat. This setback allowed the Germans to completely encircle the 800 men of the 77th Battalion and inflict even greater casualties.

Yet the Americans fought on, under the leadership of Whittlesey. They soon depleted all ammunition, food, and water but could not be reinforced because the Germans had surrounded them. They held on through brutal hand-to-hand combat and gave no ground to the enemy, while a relief force attempted to break through.

For five long days the 77th held out in the face of withering German attacks. Enemy commanders even sent a surrender demand, pleading with the starving, outgunned, and outmanned Americans to



Members of the Lost Battalion of World War I

give up the fight in the name of humanity. They didn't. The 77th's own upper commanders even wrote them off, declaring the 77th as having been lost and thus coining the battalion's nickname.

Still, they gave no ground to the enemy. When the relief force finally broke through five days later, the 77th was down to less



Whittlesey

than 200 men — but unbowed.

Thousands upon thousands of allied soldiers soon poured through the 77th's position and destroyed the last of the Germans' crumbling defenses. The war was over in less than five weeks, thanks in large part to the 77th Battalion's actions.

Three Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded for those five days of heroism and sacrifice in the Argonne Forest, and Whittlesey was one of the recipients. The legendary General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force, called Whittlesey one of the greatest soldiers of The Great War.

Whittlesey returned to America as a celebrity. He was promoted to Lt. Colonel. He served as head of many charitable causes dedicated to the returning veterans, and he was accorded the honor

of serving as a pallbearer when the remains of an unidentified World War I soldier were placed in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Cemetery.

Whittlesey remained deeply haunted, however, by the terrible loss of men under his command during those five days in France. Worried friends and family described the bottomless guilt that came from the responsibility he felt for their deaths.

No longer able to bear the tremendous pain of his constant burden, Charles Whittlesey committed suicide on Thanksgiving Day, 1921.

This Memorial Day, let us be keenly aware that our young people need to be reminded over and over that freedom is not free, that it is sustained only by the willing sacrifice of the brave men and women who accept their country's call to defend it. Our young people also need to be reminded over and over that for many soldiers who survive and return home, the war is never over for them.

Even now the proud successors to the Lost Battalion fight on in defense of freedom, in faraway place with names like Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, and Korea.

In a tribute to the soldiers of the 77th Battalion shortly before his death, Whittlesey wrote, "I feel a bond of understanding and fellowship for the American soldier in every place and time, doing his job simply and finely, asking neither sympathy nor praise. May the armistice be lasting, and these great qualities find their true place in peace."

God willing, may it one day be so.

Far too often, revivals are just annual events on the calendar. When the meeting is over, there is no lasting effect on the church or the Kingdom of God. We read about the days of old when God poured out His Spirit and His church was never the same again.

Studying and preaching about the early church in Acts makes us aware that church work is more than just going through the motions. Many pastors may even wonder if revival meetings work as they did before. A pastor may ask himself, "Is it possible for God to move on my church in a powerful way?" The answer, my brother, is yes! God is bringing revival to His church today.

It is my prayer that this testimony, provided by Andy May, pastor of Pine Forest Church, Lauderdale Association, will encourage pastors who are attempting to build a New Testament church without spot or wrinkle:

As the week began that Sunday at Pine Forest Church it was evident that the level of conviction was strong. God immediately began to save souls and convict of sin. At the conclusion of the Monday

GUEST OPINION:



When revival turns to a move of God

By David Sheppard
Vocational Evangelist

night service, one could sense that God was moving in on the meeting in a special way. The new birth was evident, and Christians were openly repenting to one another about sin-grievances. There seemed to be a level of excitement in the air after the invitation; no one wanted to leave the service.

Tuesday night, the anticipation of what God was going to do was strong. The service was full of visitors from all over the county and the worship was glorious. As the invitation was given the isles were flooded with people coming to Jesus for salvation. With no manipulation, there was a steady stream of people coming down the aisle for about forty minutes.

As I took the floor after David had given the invitation, I simply asked, "Is there anyone else who needs to come before we close?" A young man broke and ran down the aisle. This triggered a wave of others repenting of sin and being born again. We were experiencing a true move of God.

As the Wednesday night service began, we were all wondering, "Would God work tonight as He did the previous night? With a packed house and glorious praise and worship, the level of anticipation was great, and God gloriously poured out His Spirit again. The freedom and liberty for people to get right with God was even greater this night. Not only were sin-

ners saved, but also Christians were openly taking the floor and repenting to the church and their family members over sin.

Even though it was 10 p.m., it was hard to close the invitation on this genuine move of God. One senior man in the fellowship said, "I've not seen a move of God like this since the days of old."

After the service was over David and I were inundated with testimonies of how God had restored marriages, saved souls, and convicted people of sin in their lives.

When the week concluded, 46 souls had been saved, and 20 Christians had come repenting publicly of sin. To God be the Glory!

God has truly changed our church. One teacher in our school system said, "I have witnessed a change in the attitude of the students who attend your church." Our church budget is up by more than 25% over this time last year. The fruit of this work of God is still growing off the vine.

Sheppard can be contacted at davidpreaches@msn.com. Telephone: (601) 729-3248.

Mission leaders accept 'Acts 1:8' challenge

WOODSTOCK, Ga. (BP) — Missions leaders from every level of Southern Baptist life celebrated a unified hope May 19 that every church in the convention would see itself as a worldwide mission center developing strategies to advance the Great Commission at local, state, national, and international levels.

That concept — known as "The Acts 1:8 Challenge" — sets forth a framework for a unified denominational missions strategy based in the local church.

"This could be the beginning tonight of revival around the world, for the hearts of men to be aflame with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ," said Morris H. Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee, at the opening of the celebration service at the Atlanta-area First Church, Woodstock.

Participants included trustee boards of both the North American Mission Board (NAMB), and International Mission Board (IMB), state convention executives, associational directors of missions, and Woman's Missionary Union leadership.

Earlier in the day IMB and NAMB trustees met together — a first in the history of the boards — to adopt a resolution affirming the Acts 1:8 challenge. Trustees also met for an extended joint prayer session.

In accepting the Acts 1:8 Challenge (www.ActsOne8.com) churches commit to embracing a comprehensive missions strategy in partnership with associational, state, national and international missions. Taken from Christ's challenge to his disciples to take the Gospel to the nations, "Jerusalem" corresponds to the local Baptist association, "Judea" to the state convention, "Samaria" to the NAMB and

"the ends of the earth" to IMB.

"Our mission field is all of them ... and we need to be reminded of that," said J. Robert (Bob) White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, representing state convention leaders.

"Christ reminded us that our mission field is the 'uttermost (parts of the earth)' but it is also Jerusalem. It is Samaria, but it is also Judea. It is the whole of our mission field that He has called us to

and that He has empowered us by the Holy Spirit to reach — not to our glory, but to His glory."

The service included a public commitment by the first two churches to accept the Acts 1:8 Challenge — Immanuel Church in Wichita, Kan., and First Concord of Knoxville, Tenn. The "Acts 1:8 Covenant" was signed by the churches' pastors, — Terry Fox in Kansas and Doug Sager in Tennessee — who serve as chairmen of NAMB and IMB, respectively.

The covenant indicates partner churches will "be intentionally engaged in the Great Commission, awakening Christians to God's calling to join Him on mission, and helping take the gospel to all people groups," and committing to comprehensive missions involvement in the local community, the state, the continent and the world.

The covenant also suggests a series of "Kingdom-growing



COVENANT SIGNING — Terry Fox (seated, left) and Doug Sager became the first two pastors to sign a covenant accepting the Acts 1:8 Challenge during a May 19 launch of the cooperative missions strategy. Fox serves as chairman of the North American Mission Board, while Sager chairs the International Mission Board. (BP photo by John Swain)

responses to the commitment — including raising awareness of missions in the church, prayer, giving, personal participation in missions and evangelism, and starting new churches.

IMB President Jerry Rankin, a native Mississippian and graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, echoed the reliance on the Holy Spirit for the mammoth task of reaching the nations with the Gospel, with the Acts 1:8 Challenge helping churches develop a unified strategy for doing that.

"We have always had a vision for being obedient to the Great Commission task of our Lord," he said, "but could it be that God has now brought us to the point of learning to face that task with a servant heart of empowering, enabling, and facilitating one another with a new dimension of cooperation?"

NAMB President Robert E. "Bob" Reccord said he believes God is working in the hearts of young people today to take leadership of Southern Baptist mission agencies.

"I believe God has ordered our steps to give us something so critically important that I want to give them something worth having," he said. "I want to be able to say, 'I'm Southern Baptist, and I'm proud to be Southern Baptist."

THE BAPTIST Record

For I'm a child of the King, and I'm going to tell anybody I can about the King, win them to the King and disciple them for the King."

Jim Freedman, president of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions and director of missions for the Nashville (Tenn.) Association, noted that associational ministry has been around for 279 years — long before state or national bodies, and it was there that churches first realized the value of cooperative missions.

"The churches that had been established at that time realized that we can do more if we link with [other churches] right in our area," he said. "We can reach more people for Jesus together. With Baptist associations across the Southern Baptist Convention, we can reach our Jerusalems."

Churches interested in learning more about or accepting the Acts 1:8 Challenge should visit www.ActsOne8.com or call (800) 4ACTS18 (422-8718).

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 27, 2004

VOL. 128

No. 22

Crusade on hold

KANSAS CITY (BP) — The Heart of America Billy Graham Crusade general committee is exploring all options — including possible postponement — for the crusade scheduled June 17-20 in Kansas City in light of the 85-year-old evangelist's current hospitalization. Graham, age 85, was recovering from a partial hip replacement performed Jan. 6 when he fell at his home May 14 in Montreat, N.C. A spokesman for Mission Hospitals in Asheville, N.C., reported May 20 that a fracture of the pelvis Graham had sustained was more significant than originally suspected and had necessitated surgery.



Graham

The spokesman said May 20 that Graham underwent a successful procedure designed to stabilize the pelvic fracture he suffered. In lay terms, doctors said it was a procedure performed through small puncture incisions using orthopedic surgical hardware to support and firmly hold in place the fractured sections of pelvic bone. "Rev. Graham is doing great," C. Michael LeCroy, an orthopedic traumatologist, said. "He's in great spirits and recovering nicely. The procedure was successful in accomplishing our goals." The goals of the surgery, LeCroy and other doctors said, were to ensure that the socket of the hip joint is held in place during healing to prevent any further displacement and to help alleviate pain during recovery. The procedure will enable Graham to begin immediately a program of physical rehabilitation. Rehab efforts were scheduled to begin May 21. Graham also is scheduled to preach a crusade at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., July 29-Aug. 1.

Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi Baptists gear up for what may be the final battle to prevent a large casino from locating in the quiet neighborhood around Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian. "This is not just a Gulf Coast issue, because if your children are attending GBA, they will be exposed to the casino whether you like it or not," said Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

20 years ago

Frank Stovall, a 1951 graduate of Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton, is approved by the MC board of trustees as head of the music department. He succeeds Jack Lyall, who will continue to teach in the department.

50 years ago

"Christ Only, Always" is the theme of the youth-led revival to be held at First Church, Canton. Bill Causey of Greenville, a student at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., will be the guest evangelist.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

JUNE 15-16, 2004
INDIANA CONVENTION CENTER
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
THEME: KINGDOM FOREVER
SCRIPTURE TEXT: MATTHEW 6:13B

"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 15

- 8:00 Inspirational Music: Prestonwood Choir and Orchestra, Prestonwood Church, Plano, Texas — R. Todd Bell, convention music director, minister of music & worship
- 8:10 Congregational Praise and Worship: Steve White, associate pastor of praise and worship, Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala.
- 8:15 Call to Order: Jack Graham, president, Southern Baptist Convention; pastor, Prestonwood Church, Plano, Texas
- Registration Report and Constitution of the Convention: James H. (Jim) Wells, SBC registration secretary; director of missions, Tri County Association, Highlandville, Mo.
- 8:20 Prayer: Bruce D. Aubrey, pastor, Northside Church, Liverpool, N.Y.
- 8:25 Committee on Order of Business (First Report): Michael K. (Mike) Whitehead, chairman, First Church, Raytown, Mo.
- 8:30 Welcome: Stephen P. (Steve) Davis, executive director-treasurer, State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, Indianapolis, Ind.
- 8:40 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers: Jack Graham
- 8:45 Introduction of Motions
- 9:05 Congregational Praise and Worship: R. Todd Bell
- 9:10 Music Feature: Prestonwood Choir and Orchestra
- 9:15 Special Guest Address
- 9:45 Local Arrangements Committee Presentation: John R. (Jack) Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance, Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.
- 9:50 Crossover Report: Robert E. (Bob) Reccord, president, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.
- 9:55 Executive Committee Report (Part 1): Morris H. Chapman, president, Nashville, Tenn.
- 10:45 Kingdom Challenge Video
- 10:49 Committee on Nominations Report: J. Keet Lewis, chairman, Prestonwood Church, Plano, Texas
- 10:59 Congregational Praise and Worship: R. Todd Bell
- 11:04 Worship in Music: Prestonwood Choir and Orchestra
- 11:09 Introduction of the President's Address: O. S. Hawkins, president, Annuity Board, Dallas, Texas
- President's Address: Jack Graham
- 11:54 Benediction: David McKinley, teaching pastor, Prestonwood Church, Plano, Texas

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 15

- 1:00 Inspirational Music: "This Hope," vocal group, First Church, Woodstock, Ga.
- 1:10 Prayer: Calvin R. Wittman, pastor, Applewood Church, Wheat Ridge, Colo.

- 1:15 Business: Committee on Order of Business (Second Report): Michael K. (Mike) Whitehead
- Referrals/Introduction of Motions
- 1:30 Executive Committee Report (Part 2): Morris H. Chapman
- 2:10 Woman's Missionary Union Report: Wanda S. Lee, executive director-treasurer, Birmingham, Ala.
- 2:20 SBC Historical Library and Archives Report: Charles S. (Chuck) Kelley, Jr., chairman, Council of Seminary Presidents, president, New

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 15

- 6:30 Concert of Praise: Prestonwood Choir and Orchestra
- 6:40 Prayer: J. Mauricio Vargas, multicultural catalytic missionary, Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, Mo.
- 6:45 Kingdom Challenge Video
- 6:49 The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission Report: Richard D. Land, president, Nashville, Tenn.



- Orleans Seminary, New Orleans, La.
- 2:29 Election of Officers (First): Jack Graham
- 2:44 Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Report: William O. (Bill) Crews, chancellor, Mill Valley, Calif.
- 2:59 Congregational Praise and Worship: Scott C. White, senior minister of music and worship, First Church, Woodstock, Ga.
- 3:04 Special Music: "This Hope," vocal group, First Church, Woodstock, Ga.
- 3:09 Kingdom Challenge: David Jeremiah, senior pastor, Shadow Mountain Community Church, El Cajon, Calif.
- 3:29 LifeWay Christian Resources Report: James T. (Jimmy) Draper, president, Nashville, Tenn.
- 3:39 LifeWay Christian Resources Presentation: James T. (Jimmy) Draper
- 4:09 Congregational Praise and Worship: Don Nichols, minister of music and worship, Westwood Church, Cleveland, Tenn.
- 4:14 Kingdom Challenge Video
- 4:18 Southwestern Seminary Report: Paige Patterson, president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 4:33 Election of Officers (Second): Jack Graham
- 4:48 Introduction of New Motions (Last Opportunity): Jack Graham
- 5:13 Benediction: David Gill, president, Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches in North America, pastor, Concord Korean Church, Martinez, Calif.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 16

- 8:00 Concert of Praise: First Church Choir and Orchestra, Gardendale, Ala. — Jamie Parker, minister of worship
- 8:15 Prayer: Gustavo Suárez, director, mission ministries division, The Baptist Convention of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M.
- 8:20 Kingdom Challenge Video

- 8:24 American Bible Society: Eugene B. Habecker, president, New York, N.Y.
- 8:29 Election of Officers (Fourth): Jack Graham
- 8:39 Business: Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report): Michael K. (Mike) Whitehead
- 8:59 Previously Scheduled Business
- 9:14 Committee on Resolutions (First Report): Calvin R. Wittman, chairman, pastor, Applewood Church, Wheat Ridge, Colo.
- 9:44 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Report: R. Albert (Al) Mohler, Jr., president, Louisville, Ky.
- 9:59 Congregational Praise and Worship: Jeff Brockelman, pastor of worship, Grace Church, Knoxville, Tenn.
- 10:04 Music Feature: First Church Choir and Orchestra, Gardendale, Ala.
- 10:09 Kingdom Challenge: Roy J. Fish, distinguished professor of evangelism, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas
- 10:29 Midwestern Seminary Report: R. Philip (Phil) Roberts, president, Kansas City, Mo.
- 10:44 Election of Officers (Fifth): Jack Graham
- 10:54 Committee on Committees Report: Stuart Bell, chairman, pastor, First Church, Centerton, Ark.
- 11:04 Annuity Board Report: O. S. Hawkins, president, Dallas, Texas
- 11:19 Congregational Praise and Worship: Jamie Parker
- 11:24 Music Feature: First Church Choir and Orchestra, Gardendale, Ala.
- 11:29 Convention Message: Steve Gaines, pastor, First Church, Gardendale, Ala.
- 12:04 Benediction: W. N. (Bud) Lee, music evangelist, Calvary Church, Blue Springs, Mo.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 16

- 6:00 Concert of Praise: Prestonwood Praise Band, Prestonwood Church, Plano, Texas
- 6:10 Prayer: Ralph Speas, associate pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
- 6:15 Southeastern Seminary Report: Daniel L. Akin, president, Wake Forest, N.C.
- 6:30 Presentation of Outgoing Officers: Morris H. Chapman
- 6:35 Presentation of New Officers: Morris H. Chapman
- 6:40 Business: Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report): Michael K. (Mike) Whitehead
- Election of 2005 Convention Sermon Preacher, Alternate, and Music Director
- 6:50 Previously Scheduled Business: Jack Graham
- 7:05 Committee on Resolutions (Final Report): Calvin R. Wittman
- 7:35 Kingdom Challenge Video
- 7:39 Congregational Praise and Worship: R. Todd Bell
- 7:49 International Mission Board Report: Jerry A. Rankin, president, Richmond, Va.
- 7:59 International Mission Board Presentation: Jerry A. Rankin
- 8:19 Introduction of the Gaither Vocal Band: R. Todd Bell
- 8:24 Worship with The Gaither Vocal Band: The Gaither Vocal Band
- 8:49 Kingdom Challenge: Franklin Graham, president and CEO, Samaritan's Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Boone, N.C.
- 9:19 Benediction: Lamar E. Cooper, Sr., executive vice president and provost, Criswell College, Dallas, Texas

LONG-TIME MARRIED

Here between Mother's and Father's Day, I was thinking about marriage. I read recently that the longest married couple in the United States is in their 79th year. They have been husband and wife for 79 years. Their three children are all dead, yet they go on having anniversaries. Can you imagine being married that long? I wonder if it ever occurred to them when they said their "I do's" that they would be "doing" for each other this long? Someone said, "Well, they just don't make folks like that anymore and they don't make marriages like that anymore!" Well, maybe they don't, or maybe they do. I guess we will have to wait 79 more years to find out if anybody getting married this year will stick it out for that length of time.

It is for sure that today's percentages are against long time marriages. The latest stats on divorce reveal that 57% of marriages in America end in divorce. For a long time we said half of all marriages end in divorce. After some years of being rather flat-lined and plateaued, divorce numbers are on the rise again. What is the cause of those divorces? Well, depending on who you talk to, or what survey has been taken, or the way we shape the answer



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

there are a lot of different reasons that surface. Sometimes, you hear people say that the number one reason why people get divorced is over money issues. How you spend your money and what you do when you haven't got any money is a very important part of how we get along in a marriage. However, it may not be the number one reason. Others point to things like communication or the lack thereof, or problems related to the sexual aspects of marriage.

Whatever the reason is, you generally find a person getting divorced because they are not happy. I have actually had people to tell me that they were not happy; they believed that God wanted them to be happy, and they were going to get out of the marriage they were in. Isn't it interesting that we apply the high standard of our happiness to marriage when we do not apply it to so many other areas of life?

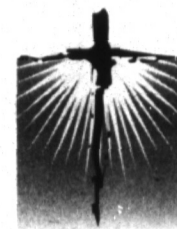
I've known of people who were not happy in their jobs, but they kept on faithfully and effectively working. I've known of people who bought a car because they thought it would make them happy only to find out within days that it didn't bring the joy or the fulfillment that they were expecting. In a matter of time they had to clean it, update it, and repair it, but they kept it because it gave them good transportation. I've known of people who bought dogs and cats thinking that would be wonderful, only to find out that it wasn't all it was cracked up to be. They had to keep paying vet bills, buying food, and providing other things for their animal. They kept the dog or cat not because it made them happy all the time, but because they were committed to caring for it.

This criterion of happiness doesn't reach every area of life like it does marriage. Kids don't always make you happy, but you keep them. When you

vote, your candidate may win but that does not always make you happy. Friends may disappoint you, but you keep them. Even when it comes to sports, your favorite team may not do so well and lose a whole bunch of games. You may not be particularly happy, but you stay with them. Isn't it strange that we put up with anything and everybody even though it doesn't particularly make us happy, simply because it is the right thing to do? In marriage, that principle, the principle of commitment, can make a vast and vital difference. You stay and stick, not just because it makes you happy and it will at times for sure, but you stay because it is the right thing to do!

Please understand that I am not talking about hanging in there in abusive, hurtful, and dangerous situations. At times those marriages are criminal! I am talking about a faithfulness to each other when life is not perfect, when understanding is not in abundance, and your heart is not twenty-one years old any longer. God brought you together for the good times and to care, share, and hang in there in tough times. May God bless you with 80 years of wedded bliss!

The author may be contacted at
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

AB responds to 'Gay Day' allegations by AFA, others

DALLAS (BP and local reports) — Amid recent reports originating from the American Family Association (AFA) in Tupelo and other sources that a homosexual advocacy group is planning an event called Gay Days on a Carnival cruise ship, the Annuity Board (AB) has issued a release to address concerns about its investment in Carnival Cruise Lines.

The concerns arose after AFA recently used its Agape Press news service and its American Family Radio network to spotlight AB holdings in Carnival Cruise Lines. Southern Baptists have sometimes been the object of criticism from AFA, which is an independent Christian organization, and its affiliates.

The full text of the Annuity Board news release follows:

Recent news articles have questioned the Annuity Board's investment in a gay activity. An organization called Gay Days has booked, through an independent travel agent, some rooms on a single Carnival cruise ship. Carnival has indicated this booking is less than 10% of the ship's capacity. The gay organization is promoting this on their website as a Gay Days cruise on Carnival. Carnival makes no mention of it on their website nor are they promoting it. This is a situation similar to any other objectionable company buying a small block of rooms at a hotel for a convention.

Annuity Board president O.S. Hawkins explained, "If Carnival had promoted or advertised a gay days cruise, we would have taken action as we did with Disney and other companies in the past."

Hawkins continued, "We want Southern Baptists to be aware of the facts regarding the issue and also to remind them of our investment policy. The Annuity Board is very much in sympathy with those who have concerns related to

investing in certain companies. We have a strong investment policy which states, 'Investments are prohibited in any company that is publicly recognized as determined by the Annuity Board as being in the liquor, tobacco, gambling, pornography or abortion industries, or any company whose products, services, or activities are publicly recognized as being incompatible with the moral and ethical posture of the Annuity Board.' There are hundreds of companies on our restricted list in which we do not invest. We are continually doing due diligence as we monitor and evaluate companies in regular meetings."

Since the assets managed by the Annuity Board are retirement funds [401(k), 403(b), etc.] they are subject to standards that do not apply to other investment organizations. The assets are not Cooperative Program monies but represent the individual accounts of approximately 140,000 retirement plan participants.

"We are stewards of their money," Hawkins stated. "Through the years our participants' responses and continued participation has expressed confidence in our service and investment policies."

It is virtually impossible for anyone to function in our society today without carrying on relationships with businesses that profit from endeavors and relationships one might find objectionable. In these relationships investors inevitably provide financial support to companies or persons

whose products, services or conduct might be morally repugnant to most Southern Baptists. For example:

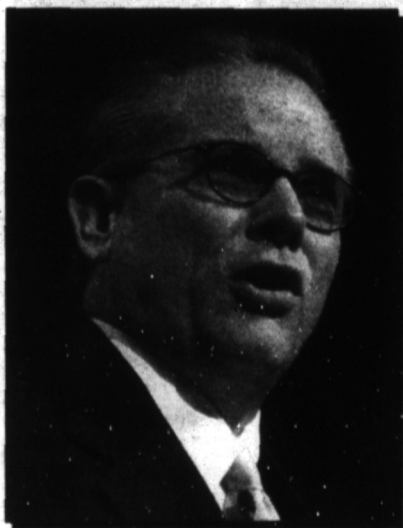
- Many major hotels provide access to alcoholic beverages in the lobby and in mini-bars in each room. They provide options for television programming which most Southern Baptists would not choose. Yet, we as Southern Baptists patronize and spend our money at these hotels on virtually every trip we take including the Southern Baptist Convention, state convention meetings, and family vacations.
- Southern Baptists continue to fly on airlines that serve and profit from alcohol even though it is against their moral convictions.
- We shop in grocery

stores where beer, wine, and tobacco are sold.

- We buy gasoline at convenience stores where beer is sold and in some cases lottery tickets are available.

Someone might say, "I will not invest in any company on the stock exchange and instead just put my money in a savings account at the local bank." And, in many cases the bank loans the money to a liquor store or some other objectionable business going in down the street.

If those who have zero tolerance with investments are consistent and follow this philosophy to the "nth" degree none of them would be flying on airlines, staying in hotels, eating in restaurants, etc. It is the patronage of the companies, more than stock own-



Hawkins

ership that enables an enterprise to prosper as a going concern.

- We could literally sit down and go through every stock in the Fortune 500 list and someone could probably find some reason why we should not invest in any one of them.

A recent press release from a moderate Baptist news source also questions the use of Carnival Cruise Lines by some Southern Baptist leaders.

Hawkins explained, "One could argue that Carnival is recognized by Southern Baptists as being the world's largest floating Bible Study since many of our most respected SBC leaders and former Presidents of the SBC have Bible Study cruises on Carnival which accommodate thousands of Southern Baptists and other Christians. We wish hotels, airlines, cruise ships, etc. did not serve alcohol and the like but if we start down that road there is no end and the result would be little possibility of having any facsimile of a well-diversified retirement portfolio."

"This issue is much more involved for a retirement organization than just saying, 'Do away with this company because it does this or that.' We do not hold stock in hundreds of companies that are publicly recognized as being in the alcohol, tobacco, gambling, pornography, or abortion industries. The Annuity Board is committed to its origin and identity as an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention. At the same time, we must function in a manner that is legally sound and is designed to enhance the financial security of our retirement plan participants while maintaining moral standards. As God knows our hearts, we take these issues very seriously. As to Carnival, we are continuing to research and evaluate it at the present time," concluded Hawkins.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Robert & Aline Dunn and Jack Douglas

Robert Dunn celebrated his 50th anniversary in the ministry April 18. This was also his last Sunday as interim pastor of Shiloh Church, Sontag. Pictured (from left) are Dunn, his wife Aline, and Jack Douglas, Chairman of Deacons at Shiloh Baptist Church.



Mike Alexander

Preaching evangelist Mike Alexander has served in full-time evangelism and as pastor of churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Georgia over 13 years. He is a graduate of William Carey College and NOBTS.

Alexander is relocating back to Mississippi and is available for revivals. Call (601) 249-3167 for more information.

Evangelist Danny Lanier, Little Rock, celebrated his 20th year in full-time evangelism May 16. He serves as staff evangelist at Northcrest Church, Meridian.

The church honored him at the evening worship service and a reception followed. Pictured is Malcolm Lewis, pastor, presenting Lanier with a plaque during the service.

Greens Creek Church, Petal, recently ordained four deacons. Pictured (from left) are Mike Routon, pastor, Barry Bruckner, Matthew Keeton, Milton Smith, and Stephen Ard.

Greens Creek Church, Petal, recently ordained Craig Routon into the ministry. He is a senior at William Carey College and has served as youth minister for five years. Pictured (from left) are Routon and Mike Routon, pastor.

County Line Church, Dossville, ordained a James Troy Sanders, Jr. as a deacon May 2. Sanders is a Sunday School Director and Senior Adult Sunday School teacher. Pictured (from left) are James Burrell, pastor, Sanders, Bobby Waggoner, Attala Director of Missions, and Martin Williams, Calvary Church, Scott County.



Craig and Mike Routon



Malcolm Lewis and Danny Lanier



Routon, pastor; Bruckner, Keeton, Smith and Ard



Burrell, pastor; Sanders, Waggoner, and Williams

Auto & Truck Rentals of Mississippi, Inc.

Specializing in Vans
New, fully loaded 15 passenger vans, mini vans, conversion vans, panel vans, Pick-up Trucks & 5 x 8 luggage trailers available

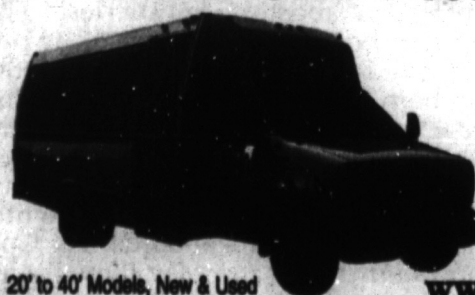
117 East Pearl Street • Jackson, MS 39201
601-948-3391

LifeWay CHURCH BUSES

A Service of LifeWay Christian Stores

CARPENTER BUS SALES, INC.

CALL TODAY 1-800 370-6180



20' to 40' Models, New & Used

- LifeWay Discount
- 15 to 42 Passenger
- Trade-ins Welcome

Since 1953

www.carpenterbus.com

"Nation's No. 1 Church Bus Dealer"

The Centenary Men
Male Chorus in America... - NBC News

2002 Crystal Cathedral Appearance
2001 CBS Early Show Appearance
2000 Grammy Awards Finalist
2000 Dove Awards Nominee
1999 Dove Awards Television Appearance

...ings
Disguise
Anniversary Double CD
Christmas Collection
Love...Feel the Spirit

P. O. Box 203232 • Jackson, MS 39220-3232
www.thecentenarymen.com

Full-time Music Ministers are encouraged to contact us for an audition.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Wayside Church, Vicksburg, will hold VBS June 7-11 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call (601) 636-3271. Darrell White is pastor.

Union Church, Union Church, will present Naomi Ruth, Jackson, a child caricaturist, May 30 at 1 p.m.

VBS will be held at **Union Church**, June 7-11 from 6-8:30 p.m. for children preschool-grade 6. Ben Presnell is pastor.

Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will hold VBS June 7-11 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for children entering kindergarten in the fall through those who have completed 6th grade. Preparation day is June 6 from 5-

7 p.m. with registration, games, and hot dogs. Call (662) 895-6967.

Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will hold a community sing June 19 at 6 p.m. featuring the Reeves Family. Another community sing will be held July 17 featuring the Johnsons. Call (662) 895-2661 for more information.

Fernwood Church, Gulfport, will hold VBS June 14-18 from 6-9 p.m. for age 5-grade 6. Grades 7-12 meet Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. during the summer. Jim Kultau is pastor. For more information, contact (228) 896-4556 or fernwoodbc@aol.com.

VBS will be held at **Castlewoods Church, Brandon**,

June 6-10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for children finishing grades K-6. Call (601) 992-9977 to preregister.

The Bible Drill Team of **Immanuel Baptist, Greenwood**, recently participated in church,

associational, and state drills. Pictured (from left) are Marleigh McCrimmon, leader Bea Ellis, Rachael Ellis, Stephenie McCrimmon, and Eric Sims. Danny Irvin is pastor.



Immanuel Church Bible Drill Participants, Greenwood

STAFF CHANGES

Lindsey "Wade" Murphy

has joined First Church, Fulton, as minister of music and youth. Murphy comes from Calvary Church, West Point. He began his ministry April 18. Tommy Winders is senior pastor.

Clarke-Venable Church,

Decatur, has called **Mark Vincent** as pastor effective June 1. Vincent, a native of Agricola, currently serves as pastor of First Church, Charleston. He is a graduate of MSU and Southwestern



Vincent

Baptist Theological Seminary.

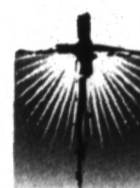
Vincent is currently enrolled at Golden Gate Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg, called **Travis Bounds** effective May 2 as min-



Bounds

ister of music/education. The church welcomed The Bounds with an Old Time Pounding. John Cockrell is pastor.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

HOMEcomings & REVIVALS

New Goodhope, Scott County: Revival June 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. with lunch to follow; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Paul Smith, preaching.

West Salem, Richton: Homecoming June 6; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will be served; afternoon singing with

The Imperials; Mitchell Smith, First, Clara, guest speaker.

Calvary, Natchez: Revival June 13-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sam Husser, evangelist; Sue Husser and the Gospel Revelations, music; Glen Roberts, music director; Mike Harrigill, pastor.

Shiloh, Carroll County: Homecoming May 30; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will follow; music provided by local talent; Doug Warren, pastor.

Shiloh, Carroll County: Revival June 18-20; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Melvin Mordecai, Union Chapel, Ethelsville, Ala., evangelist; Doug Warren, pastor, music.

D'Lo, D'Lo: Revival June 6-9; Sunday, normal worship hours; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Joe Hanna, Magee, preaching; Jeff Sanders, music; Robert Sones, pastor.

Liberty, Carrollton: Homecoming June 6; worship, 10:45 a.m.; dinner at noon; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; J. B. Costilow, Newton, guest speaker; Four-by-Faith, singers; Paul Miller, pastor.

Bethel, Oxberry: Homecoming May 30; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will be served; afternoon singing featuring Ann Williams Hill, The Kilgore Sisters, Louise Lindley, and Harold Livingston; all are welcome.

Immanuel, Cleveland: 50th Anniversary: August 1; any former members who would like more information, call (662) 843-3507 or (662) 843-8982.

Friendship, Brookhaven: Homecoming May 30; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will be served; an afternoon service will follow; James Alford Case, preaching; offering will go to the cemetery fund.

Mt. Carmel, Edinburg: Revival June 6-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; James Messer, evangelist; Jeffrey Jones, music.

West Shady Grove, Wayne: Homecoming June 6; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner at noon; Stephen C. Smith, Laurel, guest speaker; Ervin Mooney, pastor.

East Moss Point, Moss Point: Revival June 6-9; Jerry Moore, Panama City, Fla., evangelist; Randal Wells, Gulfport, music; Tom Miller, interim pastor.

Bear Creek, Attala: Homecoming June 6; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; singing will follow; Doug Wise, speaker; all are welcome.

Midway, Jackson: Revival June 6-9; Sunday, 10:15 a.m., lunch will be served, and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ivan Parke, evangelist; Charles Gentry, pastor; Tom Larrimore, music; Kathy Gullede, pianist; for more information call (601) 922-3064.

Jesus Christ
Requests the Honor
of Your Presence
in Heaven!

YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

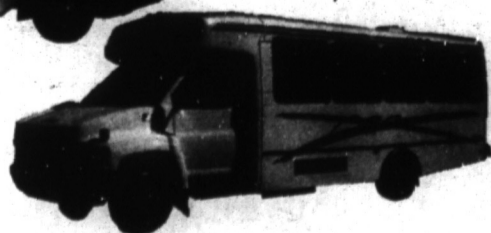
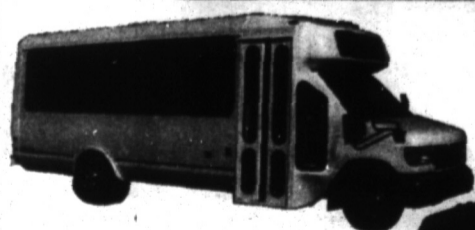
Simply share the following
prayer with God in
your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name
(John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BusGroup



Large Selection • New & Pre-Owned
Tremendous Savings • Immediate Delivery

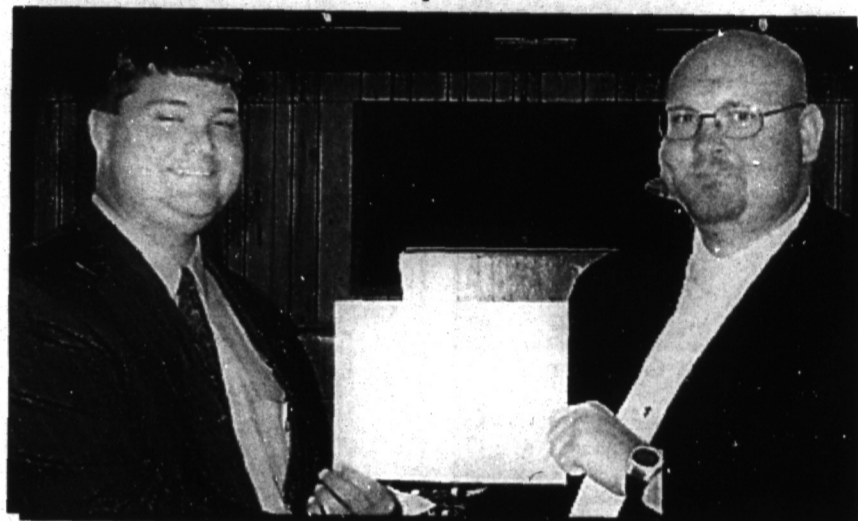
Check out the Church Bus Section on our web site!

www.busgroup.com

Georgia Louisiana Mississippi
866.287.4768 866.726.5142 800.423.9826



The children and youth of **Belden Church, Belden**, recently participated in Bible Drills. Pictured (from left, front) are Lara Nanney, Hayley Asters, Daniel Fairley, Cassidy Blaylock, (back) Austin Baker, Jay Nanney, John Mark Jarrett, Madison Robertson, and Marissa Nickels.



Jeffery Glen Cupit and Chad Carney, pastor



GAs of McComb First Church, McComb



New Choctaw Association Men's Basketball Runners-Up



Parkway Church Discipleship Training High Attendance, Hernando

JUST FOR THE RECORD

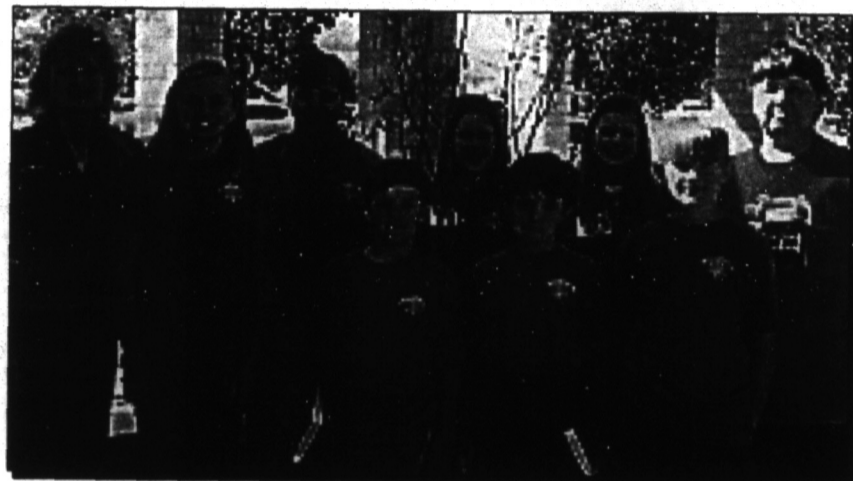
New Choctaw Baptist Association held a Men's Ministry Retreat Challenger Basketball Tournament April 18. Pictured are the champions of Bogue Chitto Church and the runners-up from Canaan Church.



New Choctaw Association Men's Basketball Champions

The 1st-3rd grade GAs of **First Church, McComb**, collected items needed by the Hattiesburg Christian Women's Job Corp as a mission project. Pictured (from left, front) are Katie Burgess, Ashley Ashmore, Olivia Russell, (back) Maggie Clark, Taylor Jefcoat, Taylor Thompson, and Brianna King.

Calvary Church, Smithdale, granted a license to preach to **Jeffrey Glen Cupit** March 28. Pictured (from left) are Cupit and Chad Carney, pastor. To invite Cupit to your church, he may be reached at (601) 657-8293.



Sebastopol Bible Drill Participants, Sebastopol

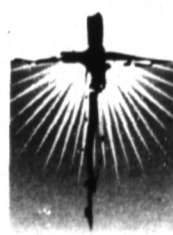
Parkway Church, Hernando, held a high attendance night for Discipleship Training with 187 in attendance. Wallace Jaco is the director. Pictured are some of the attendees.

The children and youth of **Sebastopol Church, Sebastopol**, recently participated in Bible Drills. Pictured (from left, front) are Harrison Varner, Roderick Varner, Tyler Gilmore, (back) Carleen Gilmore, Lacey Gilmore, Cindy Goss, Lindsey Bishop, Amanda Bankson, and Lynn Cox.



Belden Church Bible Drill Participants, Belden

Mt. Zion Church, Florence, will hold a family fun day beginning at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day. This is a new sanctuary fundraiser. Singing will be provided by The Believers and New Wine Quartet. For more information, call (601) 845-8251.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

SHARE FINANCIAL SERVICES INVITES YOUR INDICATION OF INTEREST IN

\$6,170,000

OF FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS ISSUED BY

Lake Hills Church

Austin, Texas

Affiliated with The Southern Baptist Convention

EARN
UP TO

8.35%

Anticipated Issue Date:

May 1, 2004

Interest Rates Range
From 3.25% to 8.35

Bond Maturity Range-Six Months to Twenty Years

Bonds are available in multiples of \$250.00 with a minimum purchase of \$500.00

This Announcement is neither an offer or a solicitation of an offer to buy. The offer is made only by prospectus. For more complete information about this bond issue, obtain a prospectus which describes this particular undertaking. Read it carefully before you invest. All bonds are offered at face value, subject to prior sale.

SHARE
FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

Since 1970

14677 Midway Rd Suite 100 • Addison, Texas 75001 • (972) 450-6305

For additional information call or write to:

Christy Overby

P.O. Box 670

Madison, MS 39130-0670

(800) 288-4183

Local

(601) 856-9158

Visit the new MBCB site @ www.mbc.org

COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

William Carey College student **Shanna Carey**, Tuscaloosa, Ala., is the recipient of the Daniel Ferro Vocal Program Scholarship in the Winters School of Music. The scholarship, established by professional tenor and WCC vocal artist-in-residence Don Frazure, will provide funding for Carey vocal students to study with internationally

renowned voice teacher Daniel Ferro of the Julliard School at his intensive three-week program in Italy. Carey is the recipient of the Gwendolyn Steadman Scholarship awarded to music education majors. Pictured (from left) are Frazure, Connie Roberts, professor of music, Carey, and Larry Kennedy, president.



Tom Coward, Bettye Coward, president, and Linda Bishop



Blue Mountain College BSU Summer Missionaries



William Carey College Board of Trustees

William Carey College Board of Trustees members gathered recently for an annual picture. The Board is made up of 24 members elected by the MBCB. WCC had an increase of 17% in enrollment in the fall of 2003. Enrollment on the Hattiesburg, Gulfport, and New Orleans campuses was 2,673. Numerous remodeling and building projects are underway under the leadership of Larry Kennedy, president.

The **BSU of Blue Mountain College** held their annual commissioning service for student summer missionaries and workers at Lowrey Memorial Church, Blue Mountain. Six students sponsored by the MBCB's Collegiate Ministry will serve in four states and one country, two will work at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly on the Coast, five will work at Camp Garawya, Clinton, six students and BSU Director Tracy Moser will serve in Kyrgyzstan, and one will work with the IMB in India.

The Memphis Area Chapter of the **Blue Mountain College Alumnae Association** recently honored President Bettye Rogers Coward as the 2004 Honoree of the Year for her outstanding service and devotion to the college. Tom Coward was also recognized and thanked for his loyal support to the College and undergirding the efforts of President Coward.

The annual **Honors Day Ceremony** was held recently at **William Carey College**. Pictured (from left) are WCC SGA President Bobbi Borne-Smith; Tim Matheny, chair of the theatre and communication department; Sonny Woodard, director of Student Support Services; and Director of Student Activities Audrey Morgan. Matheny was named Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year and Woodard was named Outstanding Administrator of the Year. Admissions recruiter Jenny Norwood was named Staff

Member of the Year. These awards are voted on by representatives of the student body.

Amy Wade received the School Spirit Award which is given to a graduating senior by the WCC Alumni Association. The presentation was made by Cathy Hughes, Hattiesburg, alumni president. Wade was also named Outstanding Public Relations Student. Pictured (from left) are Wade and Hughes.



Travis Nowell & Milton Wheeler

Pictured (from left) are Travis Nowell and Milton Wheeler, presenter of the Allen Williams Award. The award is given to the athlete who shows Christian character and leadership abilities and is named in memory of Allen Williams of Petal, a former member of the Crusader baseball team.



Amy Wade and Cathy Hughes



WCC Outstanding Staff



Frazure, Roberts, Carey, & Kennedy, president

CLASSIFIED ADS

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE for the self employed. Call (662) 568-3482. Provided by Mega Insurance, www.christurner-ins.com.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION condos, www.gulfshorescondos.com. All sizes SUMMER SPECIAL. Two night weekend, \$195.00, 4 weeknight, \$370.00. Efficiency unit (2 adults 2 kids) good 5/28 thru 8/7, (205) 556-0368.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, MISS. Christian owned home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal roofs, patio covers, screen/glass rooms. (601) 992-2092 or (800) 453-2994. Don & Rita Sebre, owners.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND EVANGELISM, East Side Baptist Church in Paragould. Seeking a full-time minister of

education and evangelism. Send resume to Don Edmiston, East Side Baptist Church, 529 East Court Street, Paragould, AR 72450 or email don@eastsidebaptistchurch.org.

GATLINBURG GETAWAY: 2 BR/2 BATH, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway, \$65/night. Call for information at (251) 666-2175 or cell phone (251) 689-9982, pdw@worldnet.att.net.

AMERICA'S FASTEST GROWING Christian long distance company. 3.9/minute, no monthly fees. No codes or restrictions, 6 second billing. 250,000 happy customers. Toll-free (866) 587-8346 or www.covenantphoneservice.com.

FULL-SIZE ROLAND ORGAN ATELIER, 128 voices, strings and piano. Forty organ sounds, 64 Rhythms. Walnut finish. \$11,000, call (601) 582-7669.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair,

Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

TRI-COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, Arkansas, is accepting resumes for full-time Associational Director of Missions. Send to Dr. Ron Kirkland, P.O. Box 1835, West Memphis, AR 72303.

FIFTEEN PASSENGER, E-3500 FORD VAN, only 65,000 miles. White, great shape, dirt cheap at \$4,400. Call (601) 982-5414.

USED CHOIR ROBES SOUGHT BY A rural church in Pike Association. Church needs about 25 robes in various sizes. Church can pay a small amount if necessary. Please call Bro. Dave at (601) 783-6670.

MISSISSIPPI POSITIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, RIDGELAND, Miss., is a growing church in one of the finest communities in the state. We are currently accepting resumes for a full-time Minister of Students. Resumes may be sent to personnel committee, FBC Ridgeland, 302 W. Jackson, St., Ridgeland, MS 39157.

CASTLEWOODS BAPTIST CHURCH IN Brandon, Miss, is seeking a mature Christian individual or couple to make a long-term commitment to serve as youth leader(s) on a bi-vocational basis. Please mail your resume to 175 Stonecastle Drive, Brandon, MS 39047 or email to paula@castlewoodsbaptist.com.

resume to Poplar Springs Baptist Church, 362 Poplar Springs Rd., Mendenhall, MS 39114 or email to cody1950@bellsouth.net. Call (601) 847-2555, Jack Woodard, pastor.

MINISTER OF STUDENTS POSITION, part-time/full-time. Send resumes to Grace Memorial Baptist Church, 2412 23rd Avenue, Gulfport, MS 39501.

CHOCTAW BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS now accepting resumes for Associational Missions Director until May 30th. Please mail your resume to P.O. Box 716, Ackerman, MS 39735.

FULL-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY needed! Please send resumes to personnel committee, Dixie Baptist Church, 111 Dixie Church Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401. Deadline is June 25, 2004.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

SAD ACCUSATION

Editor:

Many greetings from the headquarters of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA). Thank you for the many letters of support. On the other hand, it has been sad for me to see false accusations being made without any knowledge of who we are as BWA. The BWA Executive Committee met in March and issued a statement which states very clearly, "Our goal is to ensure that all we do as the BWA will honor Christ, bear witness to His Kingdom and contribute to the unity of His body as expressed through Baptists around the world." It also states very clearly that we want "to understand, to live and to proclaim the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ."

To try to paint BWA as a liberal organization concerned only with social justice is a sad accusation. Of course we are opposed to all forms of racism, segregation, and apartheid. Our main concern of social justice is religious freedom all over the world. Because of BWA, many thousands of lives of Baptists have been saved and religious freedom guaranteed.

Brothers and sisters in Mississippi, we love, pray for you, and thank God for you. Whatever decision the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) makes, be assured the Baptists of the world love Baptists of Mississippi and the SBC. Even though you may leave us, we will not leave you but will continue to pray for you and ask God to bless you in your ministry. Indeed we belong to one another because we belong to Christ!

Denton Lotz
General Secretary
BWA, New York

ATHLETICS AS TOOLS

Editor:

I want to commend you on the recent Guest Opinion by Tim Ellsworth (Adults drive away youngest athletes, May 13 issue). Athletics are tools given to us in Scripture that help us teach children life lessons. Some of the life lessons we learn deal with winning, succeeding, and achieving goals — and some of those lessons deal with losing, failing, and falling short of our goals. Kind of sounds like life, doesn't it?

Being a Christian doesn't mean we lay down our desire to win and our competitive spirit

to defeat the opponent. However, I agree with Ellsworth that too many children are laying down their gloves because we have forgotten to teach children to learn to love the game!

You learn from the game how to things don't always go your way, how hard work pays off, and how to fall under the Lordship of Christ.

Billy Graham has said that the greatest influence in a young man's life, besides his father, is a coach. Athletics should help us parents teach our children not only how to succeed but also how to deal with failure. I am not saying every child is geared to an athletic even; however, I am saying that whatever a child is driven to do with his talents and abilities should teach him/her life lessons.

How adults act and react greatly influence the lives of our children.

Jimmy Henry
Min. of Children/Adults
West Jackson St. Church
Tupelo

HOW YOU PLAY

Editor:

I want to say a wholehearted "amen!" to the Guest Opinion in the May 13 issue entitled, Adults drive away youngest athletes. Tim Ellsworth has touched on something many coaches and parents need to remember — kids in sports are there for the fun and growth experiences, and are supposed to learn sportsmanship. All too often, they are taught the opposite by adults. Instead of being encouraged, many youngsters are being "driven," and the pressures are too much for them to handle.

Unfortunately, this occurs in church leagues as well as community teams. Let us never forget the old adage, "It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game."

Thanks to the Baptist Record and to Ellsworth. We needed that!

Doug Warren
Columbus

SIGN OF TIME?

Editor:

Our politicians are continually looking for ways to get revenue but will not increase the tax on gaming which I understand is 12%, while other states tax gaming in the thirty percentages. Liberal sleazy judges took prayer out of our schools to appease one old atheist woman

contrary to the number which supposedly were against it.

We have sat back and let the courts pass rulings that have killed more babies in the name of freedom of choice than the total of all men killed in the military in the history of our country. We have let prayer be replaced with metal detectors in schools, the Ten Commandments be removed from a place of prominence in our courts to being hidden in a closet, and lowered the sanctity of marriage to the satisfying desires — while our church members devise more ways of having more meals at church, getting on more committees, and finding ways to amuse themselves while the lost sheep stray further and further away. God's word charges those that supposedly accept him with one thing: reach the lost sheep.

Jesus was followed by the leaders of the church or religious establishment looking for reasons to have Him put to death. We know that His return is approaching. Is this a sign that the time is closer than we think?

Edwin V. Case
Brookhaven

CHILLED TO BONE

Editor:

In regard to the May 6 editorial entitled, Male or female? Take your pick, I am still chilled to the bone at this latest dictate from Satan. How can anyone with common sense accept something so atrociously wrong? Every sane person knows that children are unformed adults and should be led by apron strings until they know right from wrong. How many little girls want to be boys for some stupid reason? I did, until I grew up and found that God puts us here for a purpose. Now I know I would have missed so much if I had been allowed to grow up as a boy in a girl's body. Yes, I probably would have chosen to be male but children that small also choose to play in the street and eat things not good for them.

This law made in California is just another instance of the sinful nature of man, egged on by Satan. Blaming it on Californians is an effort to deny that we all lack the courage to stand up for God's laws. I just hope politicians of California and their Godless decisions do not cause that beautiful state to turn out to be the rotten apple that spoils the whole barrel. Christians, let us pray unceasingly for protection from that famous deceiver, Satan. If that stain spreads to our

state, let us fight with every ounce of our being even to the point of marching on the State Capitol with flaming swords.

Dorothy Murphy
Meridian

CONTINUED PRAYERS

Editor:

We at Slayden Church would like you to be aware that we have, and will continue to, pray for the missionaries killed in Iraq (Remember the martyrs, April 1 issue). The Elliots, Karen Watson, David McDonnell, and their families will continue to be in our prayers.

We thank them for the sacrifice they were willing to make for the growth of God's Kingdom. May we never forget these missionaries and others like them who have given our lives for our Lord and Savior!

The congregation of
Slayden Church, Lamar

NOT SURPRISING

Editor:

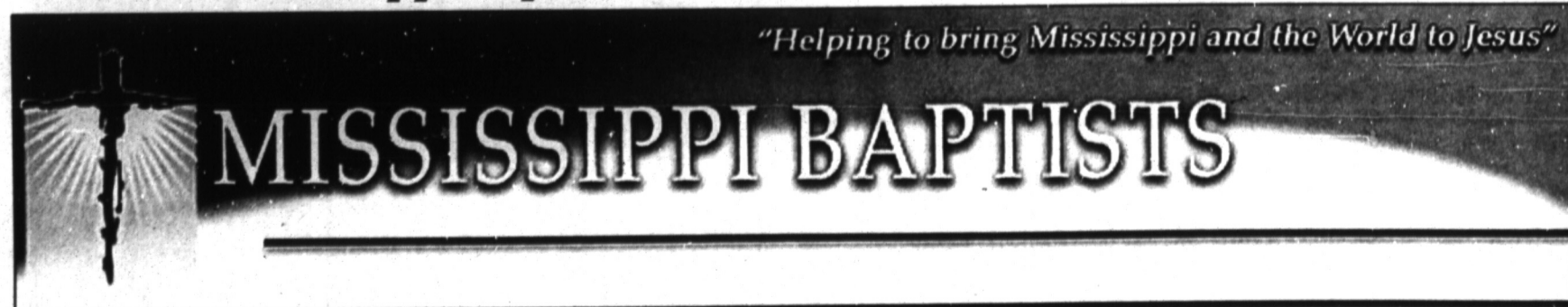
The comments by Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee (EC), about the comments made by New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley and trustees as recorded in the April 29 issue, over the issue of making the SBC the "sole member of the seminary" should not be surprising to anybody.

It is obvious from past years that anytime anybody challenges, questions, or appears to threaten the Convention leadership with differing thoughts, the reaction is, "How dare you question my/our authority?" It is as if they expect everybody to jump when they say jump and when folks don't, it is shocking and the only way they know how to respond is through harsh words and criticism.

It leaves me with just two things to say about Chapman's remarks. I applaud Kelley and the trustees for their resistance to bowing down to the wishes of the Executive Committee. Secondly, the questions about integrity and credibility of the EC have been around longer than Chapman has been at the helm of the SBC EC, and this issue with New Orleans Seminary is certainly not the first issue to resurrect the possibility that such does in fact exist — and it won't be the last, either!

Durwood Broughton
Gulfport

Visit the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board web site at www.mbc.org



FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Being Friends

Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; 27:5-6, 9-10, 17;
Philippians 4:1-3, 10, 14-16

By Patsy Foster

George Washington said that before a friendship can truly be called a friendship, it must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity. He said, "Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence. True friendship is a plant of slow growth."

While it does take time for a friendship to mature, adversity is the true proving ground of friendship. The prodigal son had plenty of friends while he had his inheritance and none when he lost it. In our lives when adversity strikes, those who stand with us and encourage us can truly be called friends. Proverbs 17:17 says, "A friend

loves at all times, and is born, as is a brother, for adversity"

(Amplified Bible). Friends are there when our loved ones die, a business fails, or personal heartbreak occurs.

Learning to be a friend is sometimes hard, too, as we open ourselves up to others. Proverbs 18:24 says that a man who has friends must show himself friendly. We must show an interest in others to be their friend. The last part of the verse reminds us that there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. His name, by the way, is Jesus, our great Intercessor and dearest Friend.

Friends also should speak the truth in love to one another. In Ephesians 4:15 we are admonished to speak the truth in love that we may



Foster

grow up into Him in all things. Proverbs 27:5-6 says that open rebuke is better than secret love and that the wounds of a friend are faithful, much better than the kisses of an enemy. If a friend sees us pursuing a dangerous course, they should raise the

red flag of danger even though it might offend us. If we are offended, we should consider the faithfulness of the friend in times past to point us in the right direction and the friend's relationship to God. Then we must be honest with ourselves about whether or not the rebuke is justified. Proverbs 27:9 says that just as oil and perfume gladden our hearts so does the sweetness of a friend's counsel that comes from the heart. Friends should lovingly offer their counsel without a trace of condemnation.

Friends should encourage one another to press on in the race of life to reach their full potential in the Lord. "When a

jockey rides a powerful race-horse, he spurs the horse to run at peak performance. The jockey isn't punishing the horse. Rather, he's urging the horse to draw on its full resources and run the best race possible" (First Place Bible Study, Life That Wins). That's what friends do. They sharpen one another like iron (Proverbs 27:17) and spur each other on to excellence in the Lord.

In Philippians 4:1-3, Paul asked his friends there to help settle a dispute. He had confidence in them that they were capable to be his representatives in this matter. Paul would not have entrusted this task to someone he barely knew. Evidently these friends had been proven in adversity. Paul also acknowledged that these friends, who were his joy and crown, had cared for him and helped meet his needs. Who can care for us as well as a loving friend? During the last two weeks of my Mother's life, we stayed in the hospital with her continuously. One day a friend and her husband came and took me to a nice restaurant

away from the hospital. It was just what I needed to refresh me—the love and care of wonderful friends, a change of scenery and a good meal.

Chuck Swindoll wrote in his book, David, about the varying degrees of friendship. In describing intimate friends, he wrote that they are "those few people with whom we have regular contact and a deep commitment. We are not only open and vulnerable with these people, we anxiously await their counsel. Intimate friends are just as free to criticize and to correct as they are to embrace — and encourage, because trust and mutual understanding has been established between them."

What a tremendous gift godly friends are to our lives! If you haven't told your friends lately how much you cherish them and appreciate their friendship, take time to do so, and don't forget to thank our Heavenly Father for sending them your way.

Foster is member of Murphy Creek Church, Louisville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Good Deeds

Titus 3:1-14

By Bobby McKay

There is no doubt that every one of us has been touched by the kind and selfless acts of others. One of the chief characteristics of Christian people is the desire to do good deeds. We should be ever mindful that we are ambassadors in the cause of Christ and going the extra mile to help someone in need should be regarded as privilege and not pain.

As a pastor, my ministry has been full of individuals that went out of their way to let me know how much they appreciate my family or me. Everything ranging from pies and veggies to a pastor appreciation day or money for seminary, I have been fortunate to

serve some wonderful people.

We wrap up both the book of Titus and our spring quarter this week with a lesson entitled "Good Deeds". As I have stated earlier, Titus is a small book, but also a very significant one in the writings of the Apostle Paul. Chapter three can best be divided into four brief sections.

I. GOD'S WILL (3:1-2)

In these two short verses Paul is reminding them how they are to treat those that had authority over them. Verse one is referring to those in civil power. The laws of the land and our government should always be followed. If there were not any speed lim-



McKay

its in place there would no be more wrecks and fatalities. Verse two instructs us on how to treat others. Do you realize that you are the most unlike Christ when you don't show love to a fellow human being?

II. GOD'S WORK (3:3-7)

Paul does something pretty awesome in these five verses. He shares with us part of his testimony. In verse three he shares with us what he used to be like. Verse four starts with a powerful word. That word is "but". That is one of the greatest words in all of our testimonies. Before we were saved we were all guilty of wicked and evil things, BUT Jesus saved us and we have never been the same since. It says in verse five, "He saved us-not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy..." (HCSB). I am so glad that Christ does the saving. You

and I could have never earned salvation on our own!

III. GOD'S WARNING (3:8-11)

This is the key passage of this chapter. Paul even says here that he insists that we do the things mentioned. The first thing that Paul implores us to do is to devote ourselves to good works. Don't forget what you read in verse five. We are not saved by anything that we do. However, after you are saved you will do good works. I am adamant about this. It isn't a maybe or hope to, but rather you will be about doing good for others if you are child of God.

The reason Paul listed good works first is that he knew that if you are busy serving others you wouldn't have time to be guilty of the offenses in verse nine. Read verse nine carefully. Are you guilty of any of these? If you are, there is a good possibility that you aren't doing good deeds for those around you.

Let's all stop running off at the mouth and lift someone up. God warns us that a person bent on antagonism should be rejected and is also called self-condemned.

IV. GOD'S WORKER'S (3:12-15)

Paul ends this brief letter by thanking those that co-labor in the ministry with him. Yes, Paul was indeed a great man of God, but he also never viewed himself as better or more deserving than someone else. Missionary, author, intellect, church planter, and mentor are all words that accurately describe Paul. The greatest title that he has is one that I hope you share with him: Christian. Paul always understood that it was by God's grace that he was saved and able to do good for others. My friend, serve the Lord with gladness. He freely sent His Son to die for you, commit that you will live for Him.

McKay is pastor of Spring Hill Church, Waterford.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital

photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

McKeever moving to association

NEW ORLEANS (BP and local reports) — Joe McKeever, longtime pastor of First Church, Kenner, La., has accepted a position as director of missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans. McKeever, a graduate of New Orleans Seminary, has for years contributed a popular series of editorial cartoons to The Baptist Record and other Christian publications.



McKeever

He was pastor of Emmanuel Church, Greenville, from 1967-70. For the next three years he was the minister of evangelism at First Church, Jackson, before becoming pastor of First Church, Columbus, from 1974-86. He pastored First Church, Charlotte, N.C., for the next four years before becoming pastor of First Church, Kenner in 1990.

McKeever began his new duties on May 15.

Land: Church snoozing on marriage issue

WASHINGTON (BP) — Opponents of same-sex marriage have been awaiting an outcry from Americans to generate support in Congress to protect the institution of marriage, but so far it hasn't happened, a Southern Baptist ethicist said.

"During my last trip to Washington, D.C., I spoke to several members of Congress who told me they were not hearing from their constituents about the Federal Marriage Amendment issue," said Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville. "Despite what is happening in Massachusetts, there is no question that this issue is in the hands of the American people."

The reality of state-sanctioned marriage for homosexuals hit the country May 17, when a Massachusetts high court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage went into effect. Opponents are concerned out-of-state couples will return home and seek recognition of their marriages in their states, setting up the possibility of such unions being legal throughout the country.

The solution, the ERLC and other organizations have been saying since last year, is a constitutional amendment that defines marriage as only the union of a man and a woman. The Federal Marriage Amendment, S.J. Res. 30 in the Senate and H.J. Res. 56 in the

House of Representatives, is the vehicle most pro-family groups have endorsed, but so far congressional support for the measure clearly is lacking.

"Unless Southern Baptists and other people of faith want to see a judicially decreed, same-sex marriage hegemony imposed on the entire country, they must translate their outrage, conviction and concern into phone calls to their senators, congressmen and the president," Land said. "Unless Washington feels the heat from a groundswell of protest, they won't see the light, and marriage as we have known it in America will be further imperiled. Same-sex marriage shatters the definition of marriage rather than merely expanding it," as some claim, he said.

The ERLC and other pro-family and evangelical Christian voices began warning about the possibility of such an advance in homosexual rights after a fateful U.S. Supreme Court decision last June. In a 6-3 ruling in a case out of Texas, the justices struck down laws against sodomy.

In October, the ERLC and two dozen other organizations announced a campaign to preserve marriage. They announced the effort's goal was to pass a constitutional amendment. This came even before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in November the state could not prohibit homosexuals from marrying but delayed enforcement for 180 days.

In the months that ensued, the ERLC and its allies worked toward building support for an amendment. While they have worked in their normal capacities, they also have worked collaboratively as part of a pro-marriage coalition that meets regularly in the Washington area.

The coalition formed The Marriage Amendment Project. In addition to the ERLC and another SBC entity, the North American Mission Board, project members include:

- American Family Association, based in Tupelo.
- Christian Coalition.
- Coral Ridge Ministries.
- Family Research Council.
- Focus on the Family.
- Liberty University.
- Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
- National Association of Evangelicals.
- Christian Legal Society.
- Exodus International.
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
- National Religious Broadcasters.
- Wilberforce Forum of Prison Fellowship.

When they saw the need for a concerted effort in Washington, the organizations pooled their resources and formed a staff. Shannon Royce, the former director of



Land

government relations for the ERLC's Washington office, is the executive director of the project. She remains a consultant for the agency but, with the ERLC's support, is devoting her time to coordinating the coalition effort behind the Federal Marriage Amendment.

Barrett Duke, the ERLC's vice president for public policy and research, chairs the project's opposition research team. It publishes regular summaries of the arguments being used by the advocates of same-sex marriage.

In addition to participating in the coalition's meetings, Land and Duke have met with members of Congress seeking their endorsement of the Federal Marriage Amendment. The pair have spent hours speaking with Southern Baptist leaders and pastors about the need for such a measure.

Ministry assistants hold annual meet at Garaywa

By Linda Jenkins
Correspondent

Mississippi Baptist ministry assistants from churches, association, colleges, agencies, the Baptist Building, other work places from across the state, and even guests from Louisiana gathered at Camp Garaywa in Clinton on April 19-20 for the annual Ministry Assistants Conference.

The Theme, The Many Hats We Wear, was carried out in every phase of the conference, which was sponsored by the Pastor/Leadership Development Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Linda Coleman, ministry assistant at Center Ridge Church, Yazoo Association, planned and coordinated the conference.

Mississippi native Johnnie Haines, a motivational speaker and humorist based in Houston, Texas, spoke at each general session. Praise and worship were led by Lisa Leavell, soloist and song leader from First Church, Jackson.

Break-out sessions were directed by conference leaders from across the state. Those in attendance could choose from a number of sessions appropriate to the "hats" they wear. The "Choose Your Hat" topics included Faith, Encouragement, Wisdom, Teaching, Mercy, Mercy, Hospitality, Giving, Leadership, and Administration.

Cyndi Grace, co-owner of No Mistake Plantation near Sartartia, was the special guest for the April 19 evening banquet. Grace is a worship leader, speaker, and author. Ministry assistants were encouraged to wear vintage attire and participate in a hat contest.

Another feature of the conference included an opportunity to meet with representatives of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, to plan for the day when all ministry assistants will wear a "retirement hat."

The Mississippi Baptist Ministry Assistants Association held a business meeting on the afternoon of April 19. A silent auction and annual dues helped bring in funds for operation of the association. At a noon luncheon on April 20, special recognition was given to Betty Anne

Bailey, bookkeeper for The Baptist Record, for her service to the state ministry assistants organization.

The 2004 conference saw almost record attendance. At least 40 participants attended their very first state ministry assistants meeting. The annual Ministry Assistants Conference is supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

The author is a retired ministry assistant who worked at First Church, Yazoo City.



MINISTRY ASSISTANTS CONFERENCE — Attending the annual Ministry Assistants Conference April 19-20 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton were (from left) Linda Coleman, Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, second vice-president; Lisa Thornton, Monroe Association, Becker, secretary-treasurer; Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); Robbie Linley, Winston Association, Louisville, president; and Matt Buckles, MBCB pastor/leadership director. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
copyright 1932/2004

JXYJ JXZ WZCJPAZQ

QXVKAF HZ

SZAAVTXZPGQ, YCF VS

JZX QYNZ HVFD, YCF

OYGJYMZGQ VS XPQ

OGVNPQZ PC LXGPQJ

HD JXZ WVQOZA.

ZOXZQPYCQ JXGZZ: QPE

Clue: S = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 1:1